

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/063,531

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Applicant(s)

KING, KEVIN FRANKLIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/02/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05/02/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/06/02&02/09/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

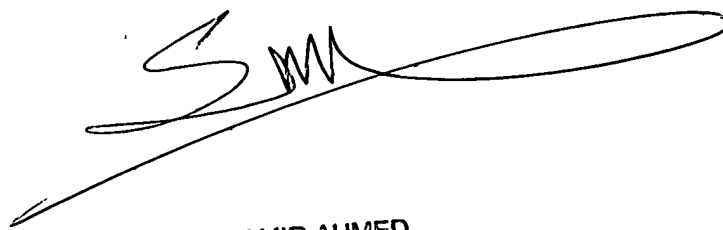
1. Claims 1-25 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art of King et al. (U.S. patent pub. 2003/0055330 A1) discloses to determine the aliasing artifacts in an image in order to reduce the SNR in the image. Specifically, King et al. discloses to obtain the amount of aliasing replicates at each pixel location around the boundaries which are used for the coil sensitivity matrix for each pixel. King et al. does not teach the feature, regarding claims 1, 13, and 19, of "calculating a second number of aliasing replicates at the pixel location in the reduced field of view image using the edge found in the unwrapped image and unwrapping the reduced field of view image using the second number of aliasing replicates to create a new unwrapped image," that, in combination with the other respective claim limitations. Regarding claim 7, King et al. does not teach the feature of "calculating a second number of aliasing replicates at the pixel location in the reduced field of view image using the edge found in the unwrapped image, populating a second sensitivity matrix with the second number of aliasing replicates and the coil sensitivities, and unwrapping the reduced field of view image using the second sensitivity matrix to create a new unwrapped image," that, in combination with the other claim limitations.
3. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays,

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should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (703) 306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SAMIR AHMED', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Handwritten initials 'AB' in black ink.

Anand Bhatnagar

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March 07, 2005